expanded the Scheme twice in the year 2005-06 and 2006-07. With these expansions, the total number of ICDS Projects, Anganwadi Centres and Mini-Anganwadi Centres has increased to 6284, 10.53 lakhs and 36829 respectively.

To cover the, hitherto, uncovered habitations across the country, the proposal for 792 additional Projects, 2.13 lakh Anganwadi Centres and 77053 Mini-Anganwadi Centres under 3rd Phase expansion is underway.

(b) Government is fully conscious of the efforts put in by these honorary workers and therefore continuous efforts have been made to improve their working conditions by increase in their honoraria from time to time and extending facilities such as paid absence on maternity, insurance cover under the Anganwadi Karyakartri Bima Yojana, reservation of 25% of vacant posts of Supervisors for Anganwadi Workers, recruitment of 25% Anganwadi Workers from Anganwadi Helpers etc.

World Bank sponsored projects under ICDS

1078. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received requests from the State Governments to sanction the World Bank sponsored projects under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that these proposals are pending with Government for a long time;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay in according sanction by Government; and

(e) by when final decision is likely to be taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATTRENUKACHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has received requests from a few States such as Orissa and Tamil Nadu for their inclusion in the proposed World Bank assisted Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)-IV Project. On the basis of a study conducted by the World Bank *viz.* 'Mapping and Profile of "Target" districts-India ICDS Program' for identification of "Highest ICDS Need Districts" and best practices experience of the States. 8 States have been identified for coverage under the proposed Project.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Special Courts for trial of offences against women

1079. SHRI T.T. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken up the matter regarding setting up of special courts to try offences against women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Ministry of Women and Child Development has no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter is left to the initiative of the State Governments.

Exploitation of Women's Labour

†1080. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:
SHRI BHAGWATI SINGH:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the age of consumerism culture has encourage the exploitation of women's labour;

(b) whether it is also a fact that violence against women has not decreased;

(c) if so, whether Government is taking steps to improve the condition of women; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Ministry of Women and Child Development has not undertaken any specific study in this respect.

(b) According to the information furnished by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, the total number of crimes registered in the country under IPC and special laws for women was 154333,155553 and 164765 during the year 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively.

(c) & (d) Action towards empowerment of women and to curb crimes against them is an ongoing exercise as detailed in the enclosed statement [Refer to the Statement appended to the answer to USQ 1070 part (b)].

Malnourishment of children

1081. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 44 per cent of children below three years to age in the country are malnourished and our country houses the largest number of malnourished people in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where most malnourished children live; and

(d) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the National

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.